



ANISHINAABE GOVERNANCE

Promise and Hope for the Future



GOVERNANCE IS...

- The foundation for making decisions about how we will live, and setting priorities, on our own terms.
- It's about taking control and responsibility in essential areas of self-determination: Who our citizens are and how we are responsible for our future.
- The decisions we make for ourselves have got to be better than having Indian Affairs make decisions for us.



WHAT IS THE GOVERNANCE AGREEMENT ABOUT?

This Agreement is about recognition of existing jurisdiction in four (4) basic governance areas:

1. Language and Culture
2. Citizenship
3. Leadership Selection
4. Management and Operations



BENEFITS OF MAKING YOUR OWN LAWS IN THE 4 AREAS

It will be our own laws, our law-making processes, not the Indian Act.

- will be able to define who we are through citizenship
- reinforce our language and culture
- more accountability and trust in our FN government
- living as One Anishinaabe Family
- we can customize over time to reflect the needs of our nation.



Language and Culture Laws

Based on the 2018 Socio-Demographic Profile completed by Prologica Research Inc and Four Directions Project Consultants it was concluded that:

- Use of Ojibway language is very low and is likely to disappear in most Anishinabek Nation communities in the near future if it hasn't already.
- Low rates of language use in the home mean that few children are learning the language.
- Efforts are being made in many Indigenous communities in Canada to support and strengthen threatened languages.



BENEFITS OF THE GOVERNANCE AGREEMENT

- The Anishinabek Nation Governance Agreement provides significant funding that can be used to support Nipissing First Nation to sustain and maintain language and culture for all citizens.
- Nipissing First Nation will set its own priorities.
- This will give Nipissing First Nation more tools to use to support Anishinaabemowin and culture to survive into the future.



SELF-GOVERNANCE REQUIRES INCREASED FUNDING

- First Nations' Band Support Funding has been capped at 2% for decades like education funding was. Underfunding is a huge block to progress.
- Now we can put a governance system in place that works for us, meets our needs, and is based on our own laws, not the Indian Act.
- The increased funding can ensure the inclusion of citizens in developing and passing Nipissing First Nation laws that will provide increased transparency and accountability. Together, we can set our own priorities and handle our own appeals processes.
- The increase is for exercising self-governance responsibilities which will remove the Indian Affairs governance system in the 4 law-making areas.



SELF-GOVERNANCE REQUIRES INCREASED FUNDING

Nipissing First Nation Proposed Funding

- Specifically regarding **Nipissing First Nation**, the fiscal offer will replace Band Support Funding and governance-related Band Employee Benefits, which is currently in the annual amount of approximately **\$541,000**, with annual funding in the amount of **\$2,601,000**.
- This represents a **480%** increase.
- The amount is adjusted annually to keep pace with inflation.



COMMUNITY APPROVAL – NEXT STEPS

The Ratification Vote on the Agreement will be held in Nipissing First Nation February 1 - 27, 2021.



A vote for the Governance Agreement is a vote for exercising the inherent right of each Anishinabek First Nation.